

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 03174

EXDIS

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING NO. 195, FEBRUARY 28 1978
(SALT TWO - 1640)

REF: SALT TWO 1637, 1630

SUMMARY: DISCUSSION ON CRUISE MISSILE RANGE DEFINITION
CONTINUED. SOVIETS INDICATED MOVEMENT TOWARD U.S. CONCEPT
OF "STANDARD FULL-SYSTEM DESIGN" MODE. IN PARTICULAR THEY
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GUIDANCE SYSTEM WAS ONE OF FACTORS TO BE
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ESTABLISHING RANGE, OTHERS BEING
SPEED, ALTITUDE, AND OPERATION OF ON-BOARD MECHANISMS TO
ACHIEVE OPTIMUM USE OF MISSILE IN ITS DESIGNED ROLE. THEY
CONTINUED TO INSIST, HOWEVER, THAT HIGH LEVEL AGREEMENT
EXISTS THAT RANGE LIMITATIONS APPLY TO MAXIMUM DISTANCE
PARTICULAR TYPE OF MISSILE CAN FLY, NOT TO MAXIMUM DISTANCE
AT WHICH TARGET CAN BE EFFECTIVELY ENGAGED. THEY ASSERT
THAT TARGETING AND OTHER OPERATIONAL FACTORS CAN NOT BE
CONSIDERED IN SALT. END SUMMARY.

1. KARPOV ASKED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF CRUISE MISSILE
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RANGE DEFINITION AND PEREZ RESPONDED WITH SERIES OF QUES-
TIONS ON SOVIET PROPOSED DEFINITION, CONCLUDING THAT ITS
APPLICATION WOULD MEAN THAT RANGE IS DEPENDENT ON TERRAIN
OVER WHICH CM DESIGNED TO FLY, OR ITS MISSION. HE ALSO
ASKED WHETHER SOVIET TERM "STANDARD DESIGN MODE" WAS NOT
BASED ON MISSION FOR WHICH CM HAD BEEN DESIGNED. KARPOV
REPLIED THAT IN LAST TWO MEETINGS SOVIET SIDE HAD MERELY

BEEN EXPLAINING WHAT IT BELIEVED U.S. DEFINITION SIGNIFIED. SOVIETS OWN DEFINITION SAYS THAT RANGE IN STANDARD DESIGN MODE IS MAXIMUM DISTANCE MISSILE CAN COVER, WHICH IS DETERMINED BY PROJECTION OF FLIGHT PATH ONTO EARTH'S SURFACE. THIS DOES NOT DEPEND ON MISSION OR TARGET BUT ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF COMBINATION OF FACTORS UNDER WHICH MISSILE OPERATES. PRESENT REVISION OF SOVIET-PROPOSED DEFINITION TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ALL ARGUMENTS PRESENTED EARLIER BY U.S. SIDE REGARDING CM CAPABILITY TO FLY CURVED RATHER THAN STRAIGHT LINE PATH.

2. KARPOV REITERATED THAT, IF MAXIMUM RANGE OF 600 KM IS ESTABLISHED FOR CM, IN NO CASE SHOULD IT EXCEED THAT RANGE, WHETHER USED OVER DESERT, OCEAN, MOUNTAINS, ETC. VERIFICATION OF RANGE BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS WOULD BE POSSIBLE THROUGH PROJECTION OF FLIGHT PATH ONTO EARTH'S SURFACE. KARPOV ASKED IF STANDARD DESIGN MODE DID NOT MEAN WHAT U.S. HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED WAS CAPABILITY OF CM TO FOLLOW TERRAIN CONTOURS. STANDARD DESIGN MODE ENVISAGES A CERTAIN SPEED, ALTITUDE AND MANNER OF OPERATION OF MISSILE'S ON-BOARD MECHANISMS. THIS IS SOVIET ASSUMPTION OF WHAT U.S. HAS IN MIND AND THEY TRIED TO ACCOMODATE U.S. POSITION IN THEIR PROPOSED DEFINITION.

3. KARPOV CAUTIONED THAT UNDER U.S. CONCEPT OF STANDARD DESIGN MODE, OR ANOTHER UNDERSTANDING OF THIS ON WHICH WE
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MIGHT AGREE, CM RANGE CAN NOT BE MORE THAN THE DISTANCE AGREED UPON BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. IF CM IN ITS STANDARD DESIGN MODE DOESN'T EXCEED RANGE LIMITATIONS THEN EVERYTHING IS O.K. IN RESPONSE U.S. QUESTIONS, KARPOV SEEMED TO CONFIRM THAT SOVIET UNDERSTANDING OF "STANDARD DESIGN MODE" VERY CLOSE TO U.S. DESCRIPTION OF "STANDARD FULL-SYSTEM DESIGN MODE" (ALTHOUGH "FULL-SYSTEM" ASPECT NOT DISCUSSED). HE ALSO INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IF MISSION IS TO ENGAGE TARGET AT 600 KM WHILE AVOIDING OBSTACLES ON THE WAY, UNDER SOVIET DEFINITION (I.E., PROJECTION OF FLIGHT PATH) IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ADVANCE LAUNCH POINT TO ACCOMODATE THIS. HE ARGUED THAT DRAFTING GROUP WAS NOT EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS CONDITIONS OF CM USE, WHICH WAS QUESTION OF CONDITIONS OF WAR. GROUP IS, INSTEAD, SUPPOSED TO ESTABLISH RANGE DEFINITION IN ACCORD WITH HIGH LEVEL AGREEMENT. HE INSISTED THAT INCLUSION OF CM OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY INTO RANGE DEFINITION HAD NEVER BEEN DISCUSSED AT ANY TIME OR LEVEL. IT WAS NEVER DISCUSSED, CAN NOT BE DISCUSSED, AND WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED. BUT SOVIET SIDE WAS PREPARED TO SEEK MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION OF CM RANGE. PEREZ SAID HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH KARPOV'S INTERPRETATION OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED AT HIGH LEVEL.

4. PEREZ PRESENTED CHART SHOWING FOUR POSSIBLE FLIGHT PATHS OF "HYPOTHETICAL" MISSILE, EACH FLIGHT PATH RESULTING IN DIFFERENT DISTANCES DEPENDING ON FLIGHT PATH AND SPEED OF MISSILE. ONLY TO SHORTEST DISTANCE, HOWEVER, WAS MISSILE IN ITS MAXIMUM SYSTEM OPERATIONAL MODE BECAUSE GUIDANCE SYSTEM LIMITED TO THAT DISTANCE. (NOTE: CHART IS ACTUALLY BASED ON U.S. ANALYSIS OF SOVIET CM, BUT SOVIETS WERE NOT INFORMED OF THAT.) AFTER SERIES OF QUESTIONS

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AND ANSWERS KARPOV INDICATED THAT SOVIET CONCEPT OF STANDARD DESIGN MODE WOULD ACCORD HYPOTHETICAL MISSILE THE RANGE OF SHORTEST DISTANCE ON GRAPH, BECAUSE OF GUIDANCE LIMITATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONING REGARDING RANGE OF MISSILE IF DESIGNED TO OPERATE AT SPEED AND ALTITUDE OF SHORTER TRAJECTORY BUT WITHOUT GUIDANCE LIMITATION, HE INDICATED THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH STANDARD DESIGN MODE BASED ON ONLY ONE FACTOR. ALL RELEVANT FACTORS SUCH AS SPEED, ALTITUDE, OPERATION OF ON-BOARD SYSTEMS, ETC., MUST FIGURE IN CALCULATIONS.

5. NEXT MEETING, MARCH 3. EARLE

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